

**PON-13-507**  
**GEOTHERMAL GRANT AND LOAN PROGRAM (GRDA)**  
**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q 1. Is a joint powers authority that is a local government providing regional and cooperative planning eligible to apply for the Geothermal Grant and Loan Program (PON-13-507)? We are also considered a sub-regional planning agency and a Council of Governments.

A 1. Section II beginning on page 5 of the solicitation reads: "This PON is open to eligible local jurisdictions and private entities, as defined below.

Eligible local jurisdiction means any city, county, or district, including, but not limited to, a regional planning agency or a public utility district, or any unit of Indian government in California that has geothermal resources or is impacted by geothermal development. However, an eligible public utility district does not include a public utility district that generates for sale more than 50 megawatts gross of electricity (Public Resources Code section 3807)."

As such, the joint powers authority/local government/Council of Governments is eligible to apply.

Q 2. The solicitation requires companies who apply for the grant to be registered with the state. How does a company get registered with the state if you are from another state?

A 2. The solicitation itself does not require applicants to be registered with the state. Section II Eligibility Requirements beginning on page 5 of the solicitation states:

"All eligible corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs) and limited partnerships (LPs) are required to register and be in good standing with the California Secretary of State prior to entering into an agreement with the Energy Commission. If not currently registered with the California Secretary of State, applicants are encouraged to contact the Secretary of State's Office as soon as possible to avoid potential delays in beginning the proposed project(s) (should the application be successful). For more information, contact the Secretary of State's Office via its website at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)."

The above mentioned website is, generally speaking, the correct one to get the information required. More specifically the following link within that website will provide you with all of the information, including timelines, for

registering a business with the Secretary of State's Office.  
<http://www.sos.ca.gov/business/be/>

Q 3 (a). The solicitation ELIGIBLE PROJECTS: section I Planning, constructing, providing, operating, and maintaining those public services and facilities that are necessitated by and result from geothermal development or production. Does this include studies by the city planning department on integrating the geothermal facilities into the city general planning and development?

A 3 (a). Energy Commission staff would need more information on project specifics in order to make a complete determination of subsection (i) applicability. The eligible project functions listed on pages 5 and 6 of the PON come from Public Resources Code section 3823, which is part of the Geothermal Grant and Loan Program's authorizing statute. Staff notes that both subsections (b) and (i) (shown below) under Public Resources Code section 3823 could apply to local planning.

(b) Local and regional planning and policy development and implementation necessary for compliance with programs required by local, state, or federal laws and regulations.

(i) Planning, constructing, providing, operating, and maintaining those public services and facilities that are necessitated by and result from the development or production.

Depending on the specific circumstances and proposed activities identified for the project, it appears that either subsection (b) or (i) might apply.

Q 3 (b). Does this item also include the city departments planning, training of its personnel and studies needed to monitor, and prepare for inspecting and maintaining geothermal facilities to assure the city personnel are familiar with the applicable laws, regulations and ordinances or are these part of item F administrative costs?

A 3 (b). As with question 3(a), Energy Commission staff would need more information on project specifics in order to make a complete determination of subsection (f) applicability. The eligible project functions listed on pages 5 and 6 of the PON come from Public Resources Code section 3823, which is part of the Geothermal Grant and Loan Program's authorizing statute. Staff notes that both subsections (f) and (g) (shown below) under Public Resources Code section 3823 could apply to local jurisdiction administrative needs associated with monitoring and inspecting geothermal facilities.

(f) Administrative costs incurred by the local jurisdiction that are attributable to the development or production of geothermal resources.

(g) Monitoring and inspecting geothermal facilities and related activities to assure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and ordinances.

We interpret subsection (f) to address general administrative costs and activities that are attributable to geothermal development, such as staff training, salaries, general services, and overhead, etc. We interpret subsection (g) to relate to monitoring and inspecting of specific geothermal facilities for compliance with applicable laws, etc.

Depending on the specific circumstances and proposed activities identified for the project, it appears that either subsection (f) or (g) might apply.

Q 4. Section item K ) Undertaking projects for the enhancement, restoration, or preservation of natural resources, including, but not limited to, water development, water quality improvement, fisheries enhancement, and park and recreation facilities and areas. Does this include providing water to maintain the park grounds, electivity for night activities, and processing the water to keep the lake water and lake fish and birds healthy?

A 4. As with questions 3(a) and 3(b), Energy Commission staff would need more information on project specifics in order to make a complete determination of subsection (k) applicability. The eligible project functions listed on pages 5 and 6 of the PON come from Public Resources Code section 3823, which is part of the Geothermal Grant and Loan Program's authorizing statute. We interpret subsection (k) of the eligible project functions listed on page 6 of the PON to not include maintenance of existing facilities, based on use of the word "undertaking" in the statutory language, with "undertaking" meaning that a specific project to enhance, restore, or preserve natural resources is being attempted or begun, and not merely maintaining existing structures or features with alternate water or electricity sources.

Subsection (k) might potentially apply to a project undertaken or initiated to enhance, restore or preserve natural resources, depending on the details of the project, as long as the activities are directly related to geothermal energy or geothermal resources, as mandated by the PON, and meet all requirements set forth in the PON.

Q 5. Does item h cover trade off study between generating geothermal power at distance sites that require additional cost for new construction of transmission lines versus developing the geothermal resource locally at some increase in development and eliminating the need for additional

transmission lines and the public dissatisfaction with the large transmission towers in their back yard?

A 5. We interpret subsection (h) of the eligible project functions listed on page 6 of the PON to not include transmission studies.

Q 6. Is attachment 7 required, since our project is a paper study that will result in determining the economic viability, geological issues and identify the environmental impacts? It is in phase 2 that the CEQA would be required for drilling and other construction would begin. Phase 2 is not part of the Grant project.

A 6. Yes, Attachment 7, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Worksheet, is a required document. Attachment 7 must be filled out as completely as possible, according to the circumstances and characteristics of your proposed project, and submitted as part of the PON application. The worksheet will be used by the Energy Commission to determine what, if any, CEQA review or document will be necessary. Please note that Question 1 of the worksheet, addressing the physical aspects of the project, does include a category for paper studies.

Q 7. Can the Project Director and Project Manager be the same person since we are a small company?

A 7. Yes.

Q 8. Does the commission have a format and or process for the Public Outreach / Technology Transfer Plan?

A 8. No, the Energy Commission does not have a format or process set forth for the optional Public Outreach/Technology Transfer Plan technical task. The specifics of such a plan would be project specific and would need to be developed according to the needs and attributes of the proposed project and any public or local community targets, goals or objectives.

Q 9. For the Local Jurisdiction Resolution requiring approval by the governing body, for a Council of Governments, would approval only be required by the Council of Government's Board of Directors, or require resolution approval from each individual city that the Council of Government serves?

A 9. If the Council of Government's Board of Directors has the power to authorize the submittal of the application and the acceptance of the award, it would be the Board of Directors.

- Q 10. I am looking at the “geothermal grant and loan program” request for proposals do you see a fit for R&D related to mineral extraction from geothermal brines with this particular program.
- A 10. The stated purpose of PON-13-507 is to solicit funding applications from eligible local jurisdictions and private entities for **geothermal energy-related** projects in California. The PON identifies the activities authorized for funding, which includes undertaking research and development projects relating to geothermal resource assessments and exploration, and/or direct-use and electric generation technologies. Energy Commission staff does not see a fit for research and development projects related to mineral extraction from spent geothermal brines where mineral extraction is the primary goal. However, projects addressing mineral extraction for the purposes of mitigating mineral scaling in power plants or direct use equipment, to improve plant and equipment operation and efficiency, may be eligible for funding as long as the focus is on geothermal energy and the project meets all of the PON requirements.
- Q 11. In GRDA PON-13-507 Project Narrative it states: for resource development projects that will directly result in revenue or energy savings, provide a feasibility study (as an attachment) that includes all of the following:
- SAC proposal is a study and that study based on national data sources will result defining for the subject local municipalities where to drill and what the costs will be and how that will result in revenue generation and local job creation. After the grant is completed then the local agency can develop the resource. Please define what the commission means by resource development project? Is it research that requires actual drilling?
- A 11. The amended Geothermal Grant and Loan Program regulations define “resource development project” to mean a project that assesses, develops or converts a geothermal resource for direct use or electrical generation [Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1661(c)]. As such, drilling would not be a requirement for a resource development project. Such a project could include drilling development or production/injection wells, but would likely exclude exploration drilling. The project would have to be far enough along in the development stage, including having specific resource temperatures and flow rates and specific facility operation requirements, in order to define and determine the revenue or energy savings and provide the information required for a feasibility study.
- Q 12 (1) (a). I listened to the WebEx today, but decided to submit my questions in writing, as they are a bit complicated. Please confirm that you got my e-mail, because if I do not find answers among the responses CEC will provide on June 5, it may be too late to resubmit this e-mail.

(1) The PON stipulates that match funds must occur within the grant agreement and that they have to be dedicated to the project. My question is about using data provided by others, for which they have paid and/or will be paying a certain amount. I have used the cost of relevant data as the major match funding in previous CEC projects (GRDA and PIER). However, the formulation in the current PON-13-507 of what is acceptable as match funding raises questions whether I will be able to use similar sources this time. This is important, because as a small company, we do not have too many avenues for match funding.

(a) In some cases ongoing data collection done both prior to and during a project are vital for its performance, for the sake of comparison with analysis results. Examples of such data are archived satellite images for a period preceding the proposed project (but to be analyzed within the project), ongoing earthquake monitoring, leveling surveys, etc. In past CEC projects, I have been able to use the cost of such data as match funding, and the data were collected during times both before and during the project. These were acceptable even though they were not dedicated to the specific GRDA project (but were very important for it), and even though a significant portion was collected prior to the project. Will the cost of such data be still acceptable as match share?

A 12 (1) (a). The cost of data generated for other purposes (such as satellite data, earthquake monitoring data, or leveling surveys, etc.) that will be analyzed and used in the proposed project would be eligible as match, as long as the cost of the data had not already been used as match for any other Energy Commission project, grant, loan, or contract.

Q 12 (1) (b). If (a) above is still valid as match share, does the cost have to be pro-rated, since ongoing data gathering is generally used for other purposes, and not only for the purpose of the proposed project? What ratio is reasonable to use for pro-rating? [For example, in past GRDA projects I have been able to use the entire cost of annual leveling surveys over several years, which were important for comparison with the results from the project, but the leveling surveys were being performed regardless of our project].

A 12 (1) (b). The Energy Commission does not currently have a pro-rating formula for use in determining eligible in-kind match amounts. For the purposes of calculating the value of the data and the allowable match amounts, you may base the match amount on the cost of the data if you had to purchase the data from the data owner or data generator. However, as noted in the answer to question 12(1)(a), the cost of any data that has already been used as match for any other Energy Commission project, grant, loan or contract would not be eligible as match for this PON.

Q 12 (1) (c). Can we use as match share the difference between the commercial price of satellite data and a research price, which I will attempt to assure by submitting a research data proposal to the respective agencies keeping the satellite data? [In a past PIER project I was allowed to use the difference. For a later GRDA project I was told that CEC "prefers" not to use such a difference as a match fund; however, in that case this was not important, because there was enough match funding from the cost of annual leveling surveys over several years (including from years before the project) and other sources].

A 12 (1) (c). For data to be purchased by the applicant, the allowable match share amount would be the cost to the applicant. For example, if the data is purchased at a research price, the amount to be paid at the research price would be the amount allowed as match. The difference between the commercial price of the data and the research price of the data would not be allowed as match.

Q 12 (1) (d). Can previous GRDA funding be partially used as match for a proposed project, if results from the previous funding are used for continued analysis?

A 12 (1) (d). As noted on page 7 of the PON, funding from other Energy Commission projects, grants, or contracts, including previous GRDA projects, does not qualify as match funding.

Q 12 (2). Can proposal copies be printed double-sided, or only one side of the pages? (I guess, I am not sure what "back-to-back" printing means).

A 12 (2). Applications are to be printed double-sided. The PON's use of the term back-to-back means double-sided.

Q 12 (3). In the resumes - can 2 pages describe generally the experience of a company, which will participate as a subcontractor, or resumes have to be provided for each individual from that company, who might be involved?

A 12 (3). For proposed project subcontractors, resumes for individuals from the subcontractor company would be required if those specific individuals are key personnel who are integral to the proposed project and would be difficult to replace due to their expertise, thereby affecting the outcome of the project. If there are no specific individuals from the company who would be considered key personnel, then submittal of information describing the applicable experience of the subcontractor company would be acceptable. Part of the purpose of this information is to allow the Evaluation Committee members to review the proposed Project Team and subcontractors according to the applicable scoring criteria. Please be sure



to submit information in sufficient detail to allow proper evaluation of the application.

Q 12 (4). From the WebEx presentation I understood that separate letters are required, even from the same subcontractor, one for commitment to the project, and another if they are going to provide match funding? Or can both commitments be expressed in one letter?

A 12 (4). Separate project commitment and match commitment letters from the same organization, subcontractor or project partner would not be necessary. Both commitments may be submitted in one letter as long as each commitment is clearly described and affirmed in the letter.

Q 13. Commercial entities will be less motivated to work on EPIC projects if they believe that there is a reasonable likelihood that the Commission will exercise its license rights under Section 16. Assuming that a commercial organization working under EPIC funding is actively pursuing commercial products that it would make available within the California IOU territories, are there circumstances under which the Commission might be reasonably expected to exercise such license rights? If so, what are examples of such circumstances?

A 13. The Geothermal Grant and Loan Program, and any agreements developed for projects selected under this PON, are not funded by or related to the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Program. However, the Section 16 License provisions included in the Attachment 9 Sample Terms and Conditions would apply to agreements developed under this PON. Due to the wide variety of eligible projects and technologies, and the individual circumstances of projects that may be funded under this PON, application of the Section 16 License provisions would depend on the specifics of any proposed project. In developing an application to PON-13-507, you should assume that all applicable provisions of the Sample Terms and Conditions will be operable and enforced.

Q 14. With respect to the Project Team information requirement to provide a list of past projects detailing relevant technical and business experience (page 11 of the Program Opportunity Notice (PON) and page 20 on the presentation), does this mean GRDA project experience? What is meant by this?

A 14. The purpose of this requirement is identify projects and provide information on work conducted by project team members that will help demonstrate the technical experience of the team related to project activities. The past projects would not have to be Geothermal Grant and Loan Program projects. The objective is to provide information that will



enable the Evaluation Committee to have an understanding of your team's technical and business experience as it pertains to your proposed project, and score the application.

Q 15. Can the local jurisdiction match come from a private entity to support the project?

A 15. Yes.

Q 16. Can an application say that the details of the match would be worked out before publication of the Notice of Proposed Awards (NOPA)? For example, if there are term sheets that are not finalized by the application deadline, how will that be handled?

A 16. We interpret this question to mean "What evidence is absolutely essential to have in the application as far as match funding?" The PON states on page 6 that "The sources and amounts of match funding must be discussed in the project narrative, as well as be identified and included in the application budget." So that is all we can absolutely require as far as evidence of match funding.

However, the Evaluation Criteria, under Likelihood of Success, states "Does the application address and discuss the level of commitment to the project from the applicant and any project partners, including financial or match contribution commitment? Is the match commitment secured or is it contingent upon something else?"

So essentially, we cannot reject as incomplete an application that does not have letters of commitment for match funds. However, the presence of such letters, and conceivably other demonstrations of match, will be evaluated in scoring the applications.

Q 17. Regarding the match, is hard money given greater weight than in-kind services?

A 17. No.

Q 18. Who is on the Evaluation Committee?

A 18. We have identified two Energy Commission staff from the Renewable Energy Division, along with one staff person from the Siting Division, and one staff person from the Energy Research and Development Division, to participate on the Evaluation Committee. In addition, we have two Geothermal District Engineers from the Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) scheduled to participate on the Evaluation Committee as well.

- Q 19. Will each Evaluation Committee member assign a score to an application and then all of the scores from the members will be averaged?
- A 19. Yes. As noted on page 16 of the PON, the total score for each application will be the average of the combined scores of all Evaluation Committee members.
- Q 20. Regarding scoring criterion seven, Economic and Employment Benefit, would we be looking to show future success of the project?
- A 20. Yes, you may identify what the benefits of the project would be if the project is successful. However, a showing of the future success of the project would likely be evaluated under the “Likelihood of Success” criteria.
- Q 21. The applicant cannot show profit in the application, but can they ultimately benefit from the project?
- A 21. Yes. The applicant cannot budget profit into their application because grant money cannot be used to fund the profit of the applicant. However, the project’s future profit is part of the benefit from the project that can be evaluated according to the scoring criteria.
- Q 22. With respect to bullet four under the Demonstrated Need or Value criterion (page 18 of the PON and page 35 of the presentation), what is meant by consequences that may result from not doing the proposed project? Could this be the consequences of not doing geothermal exploration?
- A 22. Yes, you could discuss the consequences of not doing geothermal exploration. It is a broad question that can depend on what you are proposing to do. For example, if you are proposing a mitigation project, you could discuss the consequences of not doing the mitigation by identifying what would happen if you didn’t do the work.
- Q 23. Regarding the scoring criterion “Likelihood of Success” bullet on page 19 of the PON that says:
- “Does the application describe quantifiable/measurable technical, administrative, and economic performance goals and objectives for the project, including what criteria will be used to determine project successes and failures?”*
- Coming up with criteria can be difficult and subjective because you can do narrative criteria, numerical, or a combination of both. Is there a preference for what kind of criteria should be presented?

A 23: There isn't a preference.

Q 24. Regarding the scoring criterion "Likelihood of Success" bullet on page 19 of the PON that says:

*"Does the application describe possible project barriers and how any necessary contingencies, improvements or corrections will be identified and implemented during the course of the project?"*

If you are scoping for a power plant and drilled a well that didn't come up to temperature, would having as backup a direct use application be acceptable?

A 24. Yes, such contingency plans would relate to, and be evaluated under, the "Likelihood of Success" criteria.

Q 25. For personnel rates and costs, are you looking for the applicant to use any published labor rates or just industry standard acceptable rates?

A 25. You may use industry standard rates, but in the case of a public works project you would need to consider prevailing wage. Please see Budget item 13. on page 13 of the PON, and Appendix 9, Sample Terms and Conditions, Section 28 for information on applicability of prevailing wage requirements.

Q 26. If your application includes the minimum match of 50 percent (for private entities), is it possible in the final award that the Energy Commission would come back and say we're only going to give you 20 percent and not 50 percent?

A 26. If the application scored high enough to be recommended for funding, we would seek to fully fund your project according to your request. Partial funding would only be offered in the event that, after funding projects that scored ahead of you, we didn't have enough funds remaining to fully fund your project.

Page 2 of the PON states: "...the Energy Commission reserves the right to reduce the funding amount offered to an applicant in the event the budgeted funds do not provide for full funding of the selected applications. In this case, the applicant and the Commission Agreement Manager (CAM) will meet and reach agreement on a reduced scope of work commensurate with the level of funding available."

- Q 27. If you apply for a mitigation project that would include ongoing monitoring, can the work be initiated under the grant but have monitoring continue beyond the March 2017 agreement time limit?
- A 27. Ongoing monitoring may be included in the project. However, grant money could not be used to fund any project activities that take place after the March, 2017, expiration date of the grant agreement.
- Q 28. Do you have an example of a grant agreement that a legal department could review, so that an applicant doesn't go forward with an application if their legal department decides they wouldn't be able to sign it?
- A 28. The PON webpage at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/geothermal.html> has a link under Solicitation Files to Attachment 9, the Energy Commission's sample standard terms and conditions for non-federally funded grants. In general, a successful applicant would be required to agree to the terms in the sample standard terms and agreements.
- In the event of project-specific extenuating circumstances, such as environmental constraints at the project site or access limitations, there may also be special conditions developed for a grant agreement. However, those would not be established unless project-specific extenuating circumstances warranted them.
- Q 29. On page 13 of the PON, item 9. under the Budget Forms, regarding disposition of equipment, what does this mean?
- A 29. The Energy Commission may require that any equipment that you purchased with grant funds with a value greater than \$5,000 and a useful life greater than one year either be sold, returned to the Energy Commission, or otherwise accounted for, if, at the end of the agreement it is no longer being used for the purpose intended. However, you would typically not have to return any equipment at the end of the agreement if it is still being used in a manner consistent with the intent of the agreement.
- Q 30. Are charges for labor hours for principals allowed under the grant? Is there a specific rate or cap on labor rates?
- A 30. You may charge for applicant personnel labor as part of the grant. While there is no specific cap on rates, part of the application evaluation would consider the reasonableness of your labor rates and costs relative to the tasks proposed and the experience of personnel. For example, if you are charging a high personnel labor rate it might be a red flag and cause for a lower application score if the task requirements and/or personnel qualifications information provided in the application didn't support the rate you propose.

Q 31. Regarding eligibility requirements for a city, could the city be incorporated or unincorporated as long as there is a resolution from their governing body?

A 31. Yes.

Q 32. Is the July 15, 2014 application due date a hard deadline? Will there be any extensions?

A 32. The July 15, 2014 application due date is a hard deadline. As noted on page 9 of the PON, applications must be delivered to the Energy Commission Contracts, Grants and Loans Office during normal business hours and prior to 3 p.m. on July 15, 2014. Applications received after that date and time are considered late and will not be accepted. At this time we do not anticipate any extensions to the application due date set forth in the PON.

Q 33. If all of the available funds are not given out, what happens to any remaining funds?

A 33. Any funds remaining after the selected projects are funded will be returned to the Energy Commission's subaccount under the state's Geothermal Resources Development Account (GRDA), and will be available for use in a future solicitation.

Q 34. I was not aware that 30% of the geothermal royalty monies that come back to the state go to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Do you know what their criteria are for using that money and can that money be used for match?

A 34. Public Resources Code section 3825 provides that thirty percent of the revenues received and deposited in the Geothermal Resources Development Account are to be transferred to the Renewable Resources Investment Fund for expenditures for purposes set forth in Public Resources Code section 34000. Section 34000 allows the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to use the funds for the following:

- (a) Salmon and steelhead hatchery expansion and fish habitat improvement.
- (b) Forest resource improvement projects pursuant to the California Forest Improvement Act of 1978.
- (c) Urban forestry projects pursuant to the California Urban Forestry Act of 1978.
- (d) Agricultural soil drainage programs which will retard desertification and protect agricultural productivity.

- (e) Support of technical assistance programs which will prevent soil erosion.
- (f) Agricultural, industrial, and urban water conservation programs.
- (g) Wildland fire prevention programs pursuant to the Wildland Fire Protection and Resources Management Act of 1978, Article 1(commencing with Section 4461) and Article 2 (commencing with Section 4475) of Chapter 7 of Part 2 of Division 4.
- (h) Coastal resource enhancement projects pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with Section 31251) of Division 21.
- (i) Regulation and oversight of surface mining activities pursuant to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 2710) of Division 2).

In addition, Public Resources Code section 34001 provides that the DFW may make grants for salmon and steelhead rehabilitation along the north coast of California.

Energy Commission staff is not familiar with the DFW grant programs and criteria and therefore recommends that further questions be directed to the DFW. However, given the purposes authorized for use of GRDA funds by the DFW in Public Resources Code sections 34000 and 34001and the eligibility requirements and conditions for PON-13-507, Energy Commission staff believes that use of DFW grant funds would likely not be eligible as match under PON-13-507.

- Q 35. Can Department of Energy (DOE) grant money be used as matching funds for GRDA projects?
- A 35. Yes, DOE grant money would be acceptable as match as long as the funds are specifically dedicated to the same project identified in the GRDA application
- Q 36. Can a project be funded by both this GRDA PON and an EPIC PON?  
Can funding from one source be used as matching funds for the other?
- A 36. As noted on page 7 of the PON, funding from other Energy Commission projects, grants, or contracts does not qualify as match funding.
- Q 37. Can the local jurisdiction resolution submitted with the application on July 15 be in a draft form? The agency will not be able to provide an approved resolution until July 22 due to the Board calendar. Can we send an approved resolution after the July 15 deadline?
- A 37. Public Resources Code section 3822 (b) states “No local jurisdiction shall be eligible to apply for a grant or loan pursuant to this section unless its governing body approves the application by resolution.” In order for the

local jurisdiction to be considered eligible at the time of application submittal, the application must include a resolution already approved by the governing body. It cannot be in draft form at the time of application submittal.

Q 38. In the past, have universities been eligible for funding directly under GRDA?

A 38. Energy Commission staff is not aware of any GRDA grant agreements that were executed directly with a university as the grantee. The program's statutory authority only allows for grants and loans to be made to eligible local jurisdictions and private entities. If a university was involved in past projects, it was likely involved as a project partner or subcontractor.

Q 39. Is the Energy Commission contemplating any other geothermal-oriented grants or programs that will be announced fairly soon?

A 39. The Energy Commission's Energy Research and Development Division recently released PON-13-303 for Advancing Utility-Scale Clean Energy Generation. The purpose of this solicitation is to fund applied research and development projects that develop emerging utility-scale renewable energy generation technologies and strategies to improve power plant performance, reduce costs, and expand the resource base. This solicitation specifically includes geothermal projects (under Group 3: Geothermal Energy Generation Facilities) that increase the efficiency and extend the operating life of existing geothermal energy generation facilities by improving reservoir management techniques and system design, and enhancing grid support through flexible generation and ancillary services.

For more information on PON-13-303, please visit the solicitation webpage at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/PON-13-303/>.

Q 40. Can universities contribute to the match requirement if partnered with a private entity?

A 40. Yes, that is acceptable. The university may be a partner or subcontractor on a project. They just cannot be the actual grantee.

Q 41. Many Geothermal Resources Council (GRC) members think that GRDA provides funds for educational purposes, and I understand that it does not. But there is a real need in the community to do workshops and speakers bureaus that could provide technical answers to geothermal questions and work with students and such. Is there a place at the Energy Commission we should be going and talking about this? Are there any funds available



where we could offset some of the costs involved in doing educational work?

A 41. First, with respect to the Geothermal Grant and Loan Program, under our authorizing statute we are limited to funding only eligible local jurisdictions and private entities and only for those activities specified in the statute (which are also identified in the PON). As a non-profit organization, the GRC would not be eligible to submit an application. However, one or more of your members could potentially submit an application that included educational elements as long as the proposed project and activities fit within the activities allowed by the statute and met the requirements and conditions of the PON.

As for funding availability from other divisions or programs at the Energy Commission, you may want to routinely monitor solicitations posted on the Energy Commission's Funding webpage at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/> to see any other solicitations might provide opportunities for geothermal education projects.